

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 03902 201138Z

65

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02

SCCT-01 /059 W

----- 042640

R 201101Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8816

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 3902

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV PINT TH

SUBJECT: NSCT LEADER MURDERED

1. AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL STUDENT CENTER OF THAILAND (NSCT), AMARET CHAISA-AT, WAS MURDERED ON THE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 18. AMARET HAD BEEN ENGAGED IN FIELD WORK WITH FELLOW STUDENTS FROM MAHIDON UNIVERSITY IN NAKHON RATCHASIMA PROVINCE. HE WAS HIT BY A SHOTGUN BLAST AS HE WAS SLEEPING IN THE PAVILION OF A BUDDHIST TEMPLE COMPOUND WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER STUDENTS. EVIDENTLY THE KILLER STOOD UNDER THE PAVILION, AND LIFTED A FLOORBOARD TO FIRE THE FATAL SHOT.

2. THE NSCT IS CLAIMING THAT THE MURDER WAS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED, AND WAS AN ATTEMPT TO INTIMIDATE OTHER STUDENT ACTIVISTS. MEANWHILE, POLICE CLAIM THAT THEY HAVE NO CLUES IN THE CASE, AND HAVE NOT YET ESTABLISHED A CLEAR MOTIVE. THEY SAY THEY ARE PUZZLED BY THE APPARENT ABILITY OF THE KILLER TO DISTINGUISH AMARET FROM OTHER STUDENTS SLEEPING CLOSE BY IN THE DARK. IF AMARET WAS, IN FACT, MERELY A RANDOM VICTIM, THE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF HIS MURDER DIMINISHES.

3. COMMENT: IT IS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE AT THIS POINT WHETHER THE MURDER WILL HAVE MUCH EFFECT ON THE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 03902 201138Z

CURRENT SITUATION. REGARDLESS OF THE ACTUAL MOTIVATION,

HOWEVER, MANY ACTIVISTS WILL ASSUME THAT IT WAS POLITICAL,  
AND MAY IN FACT BE INTIMIDATED. THE NSCT IS  
BUSY PLANNING A PROTEST AND IS PUTTING UP POSTERS WITH  
AMARET'S PICTURE IN AN APPARENT ATTEMPT TO MAKE A MARTYR  
OF HIM. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE STUDENTS' EFFORTS AT  
CREATING AMARTYR WILL HAVE ANY SIGNIFICANT EFFECT OVER  
THE LONG TERM, AND THE INCIDENT WILL PROBABLY BE  
REMEMBERED AS MERELY ONE OF MANY IN AN INCREASINGLY  
VIOLENT ELECTION CAMPAIGN.  
WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MURDER  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976BANGKO03902  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760064-0952  
**From:** BANGKOK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760232/aaaabbdw.tel  
**Line Count:** 71  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07 JUN 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <07 JUN 2004 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NSCT LEADER MURDERED  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PINT, TH, (CHAISA-AT, AMARET)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006